

News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32nd Congressional District of California

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STATEMENT BY CONGRESSWOMAN SOLIS

WASHINGTON, D.C.-*Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), released the following statement in support of Cesar Estrada Chavez Study Act (S. 670):*

"I strongly support the legislation introduced by Senators McCain and Salazar. I plan on reintroducing this legislation again in the House and hope my colleagues will consider it. This legislation is the first step in honoring the tremendous accomplishments and the legacy of Cesar C. Chavez. Honoring Mr. Chavez in this manner is well over-due.

"Cesar Estrada Chavez was born near Yuma, Arizona, and grew up in migrant labor camps where he suffered from the poverty of a migrant worker's life. He tirelessly dedicated his life to championing the rights of farm laborers and all workers. Chavez' is best known for his humility and strength in his peaceful fight to help farm workers attain social justice and freedom from exposure to poisonous chemicals, poor housing, discrimination, low wages and limited education opportunities. Along with Dolores Huerta, Chavez founded the United Farm Workers, an organization dedicated to garnering better wages, working conditions and respect for farmworkers.

"Cesar Chavez' courageous life inspires me daily to continue the fight for environmental justice so our children and families have a stronger, healthier future. As Latinos, the environment is such a large part of our culture, and Latinos frequently use our national park system. To have the National Park Service trace landmarks significant to his life is a very fitting honor to Chavez and the greatest way to make Latinos feel at one with the Park Service.

"Despite efforts to pass my companion legislation in the 108th Congress in the House, it was, unfortunately, not given consideration. I plan to reintroduce companion legislation and hope that the House will follow the lead of the U.S. Senate and consider this legislation to recognize Chavez' enormous legacy and contribution to the Latino community and our environment."